



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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KENTUCKY FCCLA STUDENTS DONATE \$50,000 TO PENNIES FOR PATIENTS PROGRAM

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – On Wednesday, members of the Kentucky Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) student organization will present a check for more than \$50,000 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Pennies for Patients/Pasta for Pennies program. The presentation will occur as part of FCCLA's annual state conference at the Galt House in Louisville. More than 700 students and 100 advisors representing 153 chapters will be in attendance.

Pennies for Patients/Pasta for Pennies raises money to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma while providing information and support services to patients and their families. The program teaches students caring, sharing, respect for others and the value of community service, in addition to supporting an important cause.

"This was a great experience for our students," said Reeca Carver, a director in the Office of Career and Technical Education. "It taught our FCCLA students that they can make an important difference in the lives of others. It is gratifying that our students' efforts are benefiting an organization like LLS."

Leukemia remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children under 20 and blood cancers are the number three cancer killer in North America. More than 5,000 individuals in Kentucky and Southern Indiana are currently battling blood cancer or are in remission.

The Kentucky FCCLA State Officers adopted the Pennies for Patients program as their state charity in June 2014. In the 2014-15 school year, the FCCLA students raised \$38,000 for LLS. This school year, they set a goal of \$40,000 and surpassed it by \$10,000. FCCLA chapters ran the program throughout the school year. Some chapters did the traditional classroom competition where students donate to their homeroom in order to win the coveted Olive Garden Pasta Party (in select markets) or a Papa John's gift card. Other chapters ran creative programs such as Rockcastle County High School's Erase Blood Cancer Walk in September, Garrard County High School's Fashion Show in February or Mercer County's High School's Color Run in September. A total of 79 chapters participated in the fundraising efforts in the 2015-16 school year.

(more)

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Three of the chapters will receive plaques for being the top fundraising FCCLA chapters.

- Mercer County High School, first place, \$8,419.97
- Highlands High School (Ft. Thomas Independent), second place, \$4,000
- Burgin Independent School, third place, \$2,815.45

All 79 participating chapters will receive a recognition certificate at the meeting.

In Kentucky and Southern Indiana, 374 schools participated in the Pennies for Patients program raising \$382,000. During the 2015-16 school year, 28,000 schools across the country raised \$28 million through various LLS student series programs.

“It was so inspiring to know that the FCCLA student leaders want to volunteer and care about helping others,” said Shelia Gustafson, student series campaign director for the Kentucky & Southern Indiana chapter of LLS. “It’s a program that is truly meaningful for them because leukemia is a disease that impacts children. Students learn that they can really make a difference.”

For more information about LLS’s Student Series Programs, visit www.studentseries.org/ky.

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About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society® (LLS) is the world’s largest voluntary health agency dedicated to blood cancer. The LLS mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS funds lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services.

Founded in 1949 and headquartered in White Plains, NY, LLS has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. To learn more visit, www.LLS.org or contact the Information Resource Center at (800) 955-4572, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET.

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